

ORIGINAL OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

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Eric Van Epps

From: Garth Orkney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 2:54 PM
To: Pierce-Web
Subject: Commercial Solar Incentives

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Hello Commissioner Pierce:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

I was very disappointed to see that the ACC, at your urging, decided to eliminate the 2013 budget for large commercial solar incentives coming from APS and TEP. I think your action will prove to be short sighted and damaging to the solar industry in Arizona, and will impede the progress Arizona is making towards the enlightened goal to rely more on renewable energy sources.

I can certainly believe that most if not all large commercial projects that have been in the planning stages will come to a screeching halt without the utility incentive. With the current low cost of natural gas, which is not sustainable, and no further drops in solar module costs due to import tariffs, it will be very hard for a business to make the financial commitment for the solar installation. Yet those are the commitments that we need to ensure a healthy energy future for Arizona. The solar energy source will never be subject to increasing fuel prices. It will never be subject to the environmental regulations that are trying to clean our air.

You mention that you don't want to see APS at over capacity due to excessive solar installations. I have never heard of that projection before and find it hard to believe. If you are thinking in terms of the growth stagnation in the state of the last few years due to economic factors, I submit that that is not a good basis on which to make your projection. You have to look at the historic growth we have had in Arizona and the accompanying demand for power.

I also want you to keep in mind the very real possibility of the curtailment of the Navajo Generating Station power production due to clean air regulations. How will that lost power production be replaced? Is it possible that APS or TEP power could be needed for the purpose of pumping CAP water? Should excess capacity really be a valid concern of these utilities?

I honestly think your recent actions are a disservice to the State and to the ratepayers of APS and TEP. They are certainly a disservice to the state's solar industry that has been relying on reasoned and measured changes to the implementation of the Renewable Energy Standard so that their industry can continue to grow as needed and be a real plus to the Arizona economy.

I humbly request that you and the Commission reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Garth Orkney
[REDACTED]

Phoenix, AZ, 85044
480-368-2002

Arizona Corporation Commission
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JAN 29 2013

